

MISSOURI SKILLSUSA DISTRICTS

Since 1966, Missouri has been chartered as a SkillsUSA-VICA Association. During the years of 1965 through 1968, our organization's membership was so small only a state structure was needed. In the 1968-1969 school year, Missouri was then divided into two SkillsUSA-VICA Districts: east and west, with Highway 63 as the dividing line. This structure was created because of increasing membership and an unmanageable attendance at the State SkillsUSA-VICA Conference. These two districts existed until the 1972-1973 school year when a redistricting occurred and created the six districts. The Missouri House of Delegates, April 24, 1981, approved a redistricting proposal to expand to ten districts. In 1985, the Missouri House of Delegates reorganized Missouri SkillsUSA-VICA into nine SkillsUSA-VICA Districts. As membership continues to increase, more districts may be created. At present, over 85 schools are affiliated, with 584 sections and 9,813 members. These figures reflect approximately half of our potential and also include post-secondary participation.

As can be easily seen, Missouri SkillsUSA has grown to a size that makes it unmanageable as just a State SkillsUSA Association.

Two levels of responsibility have been created since the early days of Missouri SkillsUSA-VICA: level 1-the State Association, headed by the State SkillsUSA Director and the Executive Council Members; and level 2-the District Association, headed by the Junior and Senior District Advisors and the District Executive Council Members.

It should be clearly understood that all levels of SkillsUSA are directed by the Bylaws that have been adopted; but no level of SkillsUSA mandates activities to any other level.

Simply stated, SkillsUSA local activities are run by the local chapter, District activities are the responsibility of the District, and so forth. Also, no local Constitution or bylaws may conflict with the District, State or National Constitution or Bylaws; no District may conflict with the State or National Constitution or Bylaws and no State Constitution or Bylaws may conflict with the National Constitution or Bylaws.

On the District level, this makes the responsibility for conferences and contests entirely in the hands of the District Association, with minimal guidance and support from the State Association.

In conclusion, the SkillsUSA Districts make Missouri SkillsUSA a manageable system and are an important link in leadership development for our students. Usually, the first meeting or conference any SkillsUSA student attends is a District function. It is the District Advisors responsibility to make sure that each function is well planned.

DISTRICT CONFIGURATION

Missouri SkillsUSA is organized into nine somewhat distinct districts: central, east, east central, northeast, northwest, south central, southeast, southwest and west central. These districts are sovereign unto themselves with regard to the activities within the district; however, they are affiliated with Missouri SkillsUSA and come under the guidelines, policies and Bylaws of Missouri SkillsUSA.

Each school, within the boundaries of the nine districts which has vocational education programs designated as programs recognized by State and National SkillsUSA, is a potential chapter. Each school and/or program may become members of the district and Missouri SkillsUSA by filing deadline dates each year. Those schools that fall upon the district boundaries may elect to function within either one of the districts on which they fall.